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CURRENT TRENDS IN CANADIAN AND
BRITISH TRADE WITH CUBA

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Between 1961 and 1963, Canadian exports to Cuba declined from about \$30.1 million to \$7.6 million, or by nearly 75 percent. Over the same two-year period, exports to Cuba by the United Kingdom registered a 57 percent decline to a level of \$3.7 million. The primary cause of this drop in exports to Cuba was the reorientation of Cuban trade to the Communist Bloc, and the consequent lack of foreign exchange, particularly in 1962. In the case of both the United Kingdom and Canada, the trade curtailment was sharper than the rate of decline of Cuban imports from the Western trading nations in total. (See Table 1.)

The revival of Cuban purchases from the West in 1963 apparently did not benefit Canada because Cuba now relies on the USSR to satisfy her wheat import requirements. If the wheat purchased by the USSR from Canada, and delivered to Cuba in 1963, were included in the data as an export from Canada to Cuba, rather than as an export to the USSR, then Canada's 1963 exports to Cuba would have been about \$16 million, rather than \$7.6 million.

When exports to Cuba by Canada and the United Kingdom are placed on a quarterly basis, the moderate downward appears to be continuous throughout 1962 and 1963. Hence, if there is to be a reversal of trend, as seems likely, it did not occur prior to the first quarter of 1964. (See Table 2.)

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As Table 3 indicates, the imports of Canada and Europe from Cuba increased substantially during 1963. The increases resulted from the combination of a larger volume of sugar imports from Cuba and the higher sugar prices that prevailed during 1963. Table 4 shows that the volume of sugar imports more than doubled in 1963. Average prices paid for Cuban sugar were also about twice as high as those paid during 1962. Non-sugar imports from Cuba probably declined somewhat in 1963. The 1964 estimates are based on known contracts and therefore represent minimum figures. It should be noted that prices paid for Cuban sugar in 1964 will average about 30 percent higher than in 1963; therefore, in value terms, Cuban exports in 1964 will probably equal those of 1963.

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Table 1

Exports to Cuba by Canada, The
United Kingdom and Continental Europe
1958-1963

	(in thousands of dollars, FOB)					
	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Canada	18,300	16,200	13,500	30,131	10,180	7,560
United Kingdom	26,100	42,900	20,700	13,233	7,264	5,670
Benelux	13,500	14,500	8,800	4,093	1,342	3,600
Denmark	600	700	500	360	475	1,532
France	9,400	14,300	10,700	5,360	1,340	4,315
West Germany	31,300	29,700	14,500	11,767	5,727	6,500
Greece	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.
Italy	11,000	8,300	5,300	4,030	1,445	730
Netherlands	6,300	8,200	7,500	10,952	8,090	10,500
Norway	4,200	2,900	2,400	2,300	2,020	300
Portugal	200	100	100	800	negl.	negl.
Spain	12,200	7,800	9,500	4,401	1,372	6,500
Sweden	3,500	2,600	1,100	1,372	1,160	3,900
Switzerland	6,500	5,000	2,400	1,323	365	300
Total	<u>143,100</u>	<u>153,600</u>	<u>97,500</u>	<u>91,207</u>	<u>41,830</u>	<u>51,457</u>

Table 2

Exports to Cuba by Canada,
the United Kingdom and Continental Europe:
By Quarter 1962 and 1963

(in thousands of dollars)

<u>1962</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>Continental Europe</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jan-Mar	3,340	2,740	6,220	<u>12,300</u>
Apr-Jun	2,110	950	6,650	<u>9,710</u>
Jul-Sep	2,325	2,240	5,440	<u>10,005</u>
Oct-Dec	2,590	1,040	3,690	<u>7,320</u>
<u>1963</u>				
Jan-Mar	2,420	1,466	7,808	<u>11,694</u>
Apr-Jun	2,090	1,581	6,650	<u>10,321</u>
Jul-Sep	1,625	2,393	11,077	<u>15,095</u>
Oct-Dec	1,900	235	10,000*	<u>12,135</u>

* Estimated on the basis of October only

Table 3

Imports from Cuba by Canada, the United
Kingdom and Continental Europe

1958 - 1963

	(in thousands of dollars, cif)					
	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Canada	19,500	12,400	7,300	4,999	2,010	13,860*
United Kingdom	49,000	28,500	10,200	14,950	19,982	34,707
Benelux	4,700	3,200	5,300	847	1,414	5,162
Denmark	300	500	100	97	112	400
France	7,600	8,400	13,000	1,184	2,307	4,103
West Germany	7,100	12,100	9,400	2,011	5,785	2,010
Greece	5,900	4,000	3,200	3,434	4,960	1,159
Italy	2,400	600	500	327	205	38,000
Netherlands	16,500	8,300	11,900	4,257	3,594	14,115
Norway	400	600	1,000	226	359	600
Portugal	300	100	100	4	negl.	negl.
Spain	13,500	7,400	10,300	9,240	8,519	20,000
Sweden	5,400	2,000	2,000	522	4,170	8,178
Switzerland	4,700	1,500	4,300	2,619	3,091	4,923
Total	<u>143,100</u>	<u>89,600</u>	<u>88,600</u>	<u>44,717</u>	<u>57,924</u>	<u>147,205</u>

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**Cane Sugar Imports to Canada,
The United Kingdom and Continental Europe
1963 and Probable 1964**

(in thousands of metric tons)

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Canada	20	70	-
United Kingdom	76	174	100
Benelux	19	20	-
Greece	50	15	-
Italy	2	150	65
Netherlands	15	124	100
Norway	36	23	-
Sweden	28	15	-
Switzerland	17	61	30
Spain	53	103	250
Total	<u>321</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>545</u>